



Conservation Practice Overview

July 2021

Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (Code 566)

Recreation land grading and shaping is the modification of sites to permit the installation or operation of recreational facilities.

Practice Information

Recreation land grading and shaping is reshaping the land to support effective and safe use of a recreational resource and/or to minimize onsite and offsite impacts to natural resources from recreational land use. This practice is used where surface irregularities, slopes, obstructions, or surface drainage interfere with planned recreational use or where such use requires designed land surfaces.



The grading and shaping is configured to minimize adverse onsite and offsite impacts. Considerations during the planning process include measures to reduce soil erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, other water resource damage, aesthetics, or unacceptable damage to wildlife habitat, fragmentation, or restrictions to wildlife movement. Plans include measures for erosion control and for removing or otherwise providing for control of excess surface water.

Recreation land grading and shaping requires maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (Code 566) is commonly associated with other conservation practices, such as NRCS CPSs Recreation Area Improvement (Code 562), Trails and Walkways (Code 575), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), Access Control (Code 472), and Critical Area Planting (Code 342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.